(b) if so, the total funds allocated and expenditure incurred on the VRCs during the last three years; and

(c) the fresh steps taken for physical, medical, socio-economic and psychological evolution of the children residing in these VRCs?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Adequate funds are allocated to Vocational Rehabilitation Centres (VRCs) which provide rehabilitation assistance to persons with disabilities in the age group of 15-50 years. Out of total allocation of Rs. 24.47 crores for VRCs, an expenditure of Rs. 18.09 crore was incurred during the year 1999—2002. The new initiatives in this regard, *inter-alia*, include setting up of Skill Training Workshops, Rural Rehabilitation Extension Centres, at least one VRC in each State / Union Territory during Tenth Five Year Plan, mobile camps in rural areas, etc.

Atrocities against SCs and STs

4915. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of atrocities aginst persons belonging to SC and ST communities reported during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent such atrocities?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 as reported by the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations during, 1998, 1999 and 2000 are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) With a view to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the State Governments / Union Territory Administrations have been requested to implement provisions of the Act in letter and sprit. Financial assistance is being provided under the scheme for strengthening of administrative, enforcement and judicial machinery, relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons. Implementation of provisions of the Act is reviewed from time to time.

Statement

Number of cases registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000

S.No.	States/UTs	1998	1999	2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	540	721	2711
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1407	1258	568
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	873
6.	Goa	2	1	1
7.	Gujarat	2138	1846	1699
8.	Haryana	32	28	54
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15	13	10
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	26
11.	Karnataka	1279	1239	1254
12.	Kerala	716	NA	529
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4138	3990	4122
14.	Maharashtra	1069	927	793
15.	Manipur	2	NA	0
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0
19.	Orissa	1332	1449	1354
20.	Punjab	17	19	34
21.	Rajasthan	6858	6838	6679
22.	Sikkim	0	0	0
23.	Tamil Nadu	897	1011	996
24.	Tripura	0	0	0
25.	Uttaranchal	—	—	112

S.No.	States/UTs	1998	1999	2000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	7095	6917	8462
27.	West Bengal	15	9	14
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	1	1
29.	Chandigarh	0	0	1
30.	D & N Haveli	1	1	1
31.	Daman & Diu	0	1	1
32.	Delhi	7	14	15
33.	Lakshadweep	0	0	1
34.	Pondicherry	1	2	4
	TOTAL:	27561	26285	30315

1. NA: Not Available

2. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 does not extend in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Identification of Untouchability-Prone Areas

4916. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only three States have identified untouchability-prone areas;

(b) if so, the reasons for slow pace of identification of untouchability-prone areas in the country;

(c) whether all the States/UTs have set-up Special Courts to inquire into the cases of untouchability;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the States where such courts are yet to be set-up alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have identified untouchability-prone areas. Surveys are in progress in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.